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The Poor Man's Death-Bed.

BY CAROLINE POWERS.

Tread softly—low the head—

In reverent silence bow!

No passing bell shall toll,

Yet an immortal soul.

It passing now.

Stranger!—how great so'er,

With lowly reverence bow!

There's one in that poor shed,

One by that wretched bed,

Greater than thou.

Beneath that paper's rest,

Lo! Death shall keep his state;

Enter—no crowd attend—

Enter—no guards defend.

The palace gate.

That pavement damp and cold,

No whispering rounders tread;

One silent woman stands,

Chafing with pain, this land,

A dying head.

No busy nurses' sound;

An infant wall alone;

A sob suppressed—again

That short, deep gasp—and then

The parting groan!

Oh, change! Oh, wondrous change!

Barst are the prison bars!

This moment there—so low

Is mortal pains—and now

Beyond the stave!

Oh, change! stupendous change!

There lies the wretched slave!

The soul from earthly tracks,

The new immortal wakes!

Wakes with his God!

Execution of an Innocent Man in France.

The family of a M. Lesqures, who had

been executed for years ago for murder and

robbery, had petitioned the Assembly to

cancel the sentence of the father to be pro-

claimed, and that his character should be re-

established. The Assembly ordered a re-

port to be drawn up by M. Lesqures, and

this report is today published by the press.

The facts are of unusual interest. They

are simply these:

In the month of April, 1795, the Paris

and Lyons-unit was stopped at Mangeron

by five men on horseback, who, after mur-

dering the courier and driver, plundered it

of its contents. Among the arrests of per-

sons suspected of having been engaged in

this crime, was that of a man named Gueno,

and being confronted with witnesses, the

commissary of Police declared that there

was no ground for further proceedings against

him, and he was set at liberty. The commis-

sary, having seized the papers of Gueno,

promised to return them.

On the day following the liberation of

Gueno the commissary was engaged in hear-

ing further evidence, when he was informed

by one of his agents that two women, of the

locality where the crime was committed,

were in the room adjoining the cabinet of

the commissary, and had there recognized

among the persons present two of the mur-

derers. The commissary had the women

before him, and, after reminding them of

the gravity of their statement, desired that

one of the men pointed out should be in-

troduced. This person, to the astonishment

of the commissary, was Gueno. The com-

missary of this man, convicted of the inno-

cence of his crime, but as the women were

positive that they had seen him at the

place of the murder immediately after its

perpetration, he was compelled to order that

he should remain in custody. When Gueno

was asked why he came to the office of the

commissary, he replied that it was for the

purpose of claiming his papers, and that he

was accompanied by a friend named Les-

qures. This was the other man spoken of

by the women. Lesqures was then con-

fronted with his accusers, and they swore

positively to his identity. The respectability

of Lesqures, great as it was, did not suffice,

after such direct testimony, to induce the com-

missary to leave him at liberty. The women

said they recognized him perfectly, and even

described the pistol which they said he

was at the time of the murder. Les-

qures, therefore, was arrested.

Subsequently other persons were arrested,

its course, and Lesqures was executed.

After his death, a man named Bonil was

arrested as one of the criminals. This man

confessed his guilt, but refused to declare

that Lesqures was innocent. Previously,

however, another of the criminals had sol-

emnly, and up to the moment of his execu-

tion, proclaimed the innocence of Lesqures,

and given the names of all the murderers,

who were five in number. The number had

been sworn to by all the witnesses, but, in-

cluding Lesqures, six persons were con-

victed of the crime, and executed, so that

one must have been innocent. The silence

of Bonil left but doubts in some minds as

to the innocence of Lesqures, but six months

after the death of Bonil, the priest who had

acted as his confessor gave up a paper which

had been placed in his hands, sealed by Bon-

il, with an inscription that it should not be

opened until the expiration of that period.

In this paper Bonil declared before God

that Lesqures had nothing to do with the

crime, and was totally unknown to all the

criminals. By the death of Lesqures, his

wife and children were left destitute, for the

confiscation of all his property had been or-

dered, and it was attached by the govern-

ment to the treasury of M. Comte de Jac-

quemin, who refused to accept it, observing

that he respected humanity too much to re-

ceive property stained with the blood of an

innocent man, and that it ought to be re-

stored to his family. This noble conduct

produced so good to the family of Les-

qures, the property refused by M. Jacque-

min was subsequently appropriated by the

family Treasury.

“Sixty years have elapsed since this

great judicial error, which the life of an

innocent and honorable man was sacrificed

and his family plunged into poverty, was

recompensed, and up to the present time all

the prayers, penitents, and memorials of that

family for the rehabilitation of the memory

of the victim have been fruitless. It is hoped

now, after the report of M. Bonil, that all

that human justice can do will at length be

rendered—lighted justice.”

Selling Young Women.

Every year at the feast of St. Peter, which

comes in the latter days of June, the peni-

tary of the district of Paris meet together

at a certain place for the purpose of a gen-

eral fair. This fair has a very peculiar in-

terest for the young men and the young

maiden, for it is there that, while purchas-

ing household articles and family neces-

saries, they choose for themselves partners,

and conclude marriages. The parents bring

in their marriageable daughters, with each

one her little dowry accompanied by her

maid, and up in a small cart. This dowry is,

of course, proportionate to the lowly condi-

tion of these mountaineers—some sheep, some

times a few hogs, or even chickens. The

girls are attired in their best, or what pieces

of gold and silver they may possess are

strung upon a string and neatly attached to

bands of their hair.

Thus fitted out, every girl who desires to

find a husband, betakes herself to the fair.

She quits the house of her father, perhaps

for ever, and bids her mother adieu, quite

ignorant of what roof it is to shelter her, and

what awaits her at her journey's end. As to

her fortune, it is in the little cart that awaits

her. The object of her journey is never

mistaken, nobody wonders at it, for there

is only one reason for a public order to make

good of the deed. On the other hand, the

young men who wish to procure for them-

selves wives, hasten to the fair, arrayed in

the very best skin garments their coat contain.

These savage-looking cloaks, which would in-

quire one to make one's way through trees

and hills themselves, proceed with a good

deal of interest and zeal to inspect the fair

mountain